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## U.S. Rebukes Attorney on CIA Source

By MARK FORSTER  
and RONALD J. OSTROW,  
Times Staff Writers

U.S. Atty. William H. Kennedy of San Diego was sharply rebuked Monday by High Justice Department officials in Washington, D.C., for publicly confirming that a former Mexican government official, implicated in an international car theft ring, was a valuable CIA intelligence source.

Kennedy was ordered to Washington on short notice to meet with Associate Atty. Gen. Rudolph W. Giuliani, the department's third-ranking official, amid reports that the federal prosecutor for San Diego and Imperial counties is in danger of losing his job over the intelligence disclosure.

"He is back in Washington now and his story is being heard," said an official familiar with the case. "He was not called back for consultation but (to explain) why he did such a damn stupid thing."

Kennedy, 50, was a prosecutor with the San Diego district attorney's office for 23 years, until he was appointed to the federal post last November by President Reagan. As a presidential appointee, Kennedy can only be removed by Reagan. The Justice Department could recommend to Reagan that Kennedy be fired.

The San Diego prosecutor is in trouble for confirming for the San Diego Union last week that the CIA and Justice Department last November blocked the indictment of Miguel Nassar Haro, who headed Mexico's Department of Federal Security until last January. Haro allegedly received a stolen van.

The CIA and Justice Department thwarted the San Diego federal prosecutors' attempts to indict Nassar Haro because he was described

as an indispensable CIA source of intelligence about Mexico and Central America, Kennedy was quoted as saying.

As national director of Mexico's internal security agency, Nassar Haro was one of the most powerful law-enforcement officials in Mexico.

Nassar Haro accepted a stolen van from one of his agents involved in an international car theft ring, according to an FBI affidavit.

Fourteen people, including several Mexican security agents and a Mexican customs official, have been sentenced to prison in the United States after pleading guilty in the case.

The ring was suspected of stealing between \$30 million and \$40 million worth of new luxury cars from Southland dealerships and turning them over to high Mexican government officials.

### Very Upset

Justice Department officials were angered by what they considered Kennedy's damaging disclosure about sensitive intelligence information.

"They're upset because he used extremely poor judgment," one official said.

Kennedy, who was ordered to stop talking publicly about the case immediately after his disclosures, could not be reached for comment Monday.

Kennedy's comments were considered particularly harmful because of the Reagan Administration's diplomatic and political initiatives in Central America and Mexico.

"I can't think of anything short of corruption that would be worse," one official said.

Before his appointment as U.S. attorney in San Diego, Kennedy held the second-ranking post of assistant district attorney.

He has a reputation as a low-key, efficient administrator, with strong ties and friendships throughout the legal community.